

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SY-04 SAB-01 USSS-00 /072 W

----- 092120

P R 300745Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 824

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 133

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MU

SUBJECT: SULTAN RETURNS MIDST FRESH SECURITY CONCERNS, PLANS
PROCEED TO SALALAH

1. IT BECAME KNOWN JAN. 28 THAT SULTAN QABOOS HAD RETURNED FROM LONDON NIGHT BEFORE. HE SLIPPED IN QUIETLY, WITHOUT FAN-FARE, AS IS HIS CUSTOM, THOUGH ON THIS OCCASION NEWS OF HIS IMPENDING ARRIVAL SEEMED MORE CLOSELY HELD THAN USUAL. FOLLOWING TWO FACTORS MAY ACCOUNT FOR THIS:

A. ON JAN. 26 OR 27, MINE EXPLODED UNDER TRUCK OF GERMAN CONTRACTING FIRM STRABAG IN LITTLE-USED WADI TRACK IN AREA BETWEEN NIZWA AND BAHLA SOME 100 MILES NORTHWEST OF MUSCAT. NO ONE HURT. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION NOW SHOW THAT MINE MAY HAVE BEEN LAID UP TO ONE YEAR AGO.

B. OMANI INTELLIGENCE RECENTLY PICKED UP INFORMATION THAT ANOTHER TERRORIST ASSASSINATION SQUAD, SIMILAR TO THE ONE INTERCEPTED NEAR RUSTAQ LAST OCTOBER, IS EITHER IN COUNTRY OR ABOUT TO BE DISPATCHED FROM HIDEAWAY IN ABU DHABI OR DUBAI.
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CONSEQUENTLY AUTHORITIES ARE CONVENING TO ANALYZE WHAT THIS

MEANS AND WHAT COUNTER-ACTION TO TAKE. THIS WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR GEN. CREASEY TO BE SUMMONED BACK FROM DHOFAR WHERE HE WAS MAKING FAREWELL ROUNDS BEFORE LONG-SCHEDULED FEBRUARY 3 TURNOVER TO GEN. PERKINS.

2. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS SULTAN EXPECTS FLY TO SALALAH THIS WEEKEND FOR FORTNIGHT SOJOURN IN DHOFAR. I AM PROCEEDING SALALAH MYSELF FEB. 2 FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN FULFILLMENT LONG-STANDING PLANS AND WILL PROBABLY REQUEST AUDIENCE THERE WITH SULTAN. SHOULD DEPT HAVE ANY PARTICULAR SUBJECTS OR CONCERNS TO SUGGEST FOR DISCUSSION WITH HIM, OTHER THAN STATE 19780, PLEASE ADVISE. ANY INSTRUCTIONS SHOULD REACH MUSCAT BY FEB. 1 AT LATEST.

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